

REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments in the above-identified Office Action and the references cited therein. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 3 as being indefinite, and further rejected claims 1-3 as being obvious over Brown et al (US 5,975,145) in view of Tobin (US 4,349,803). Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1-3 and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance.

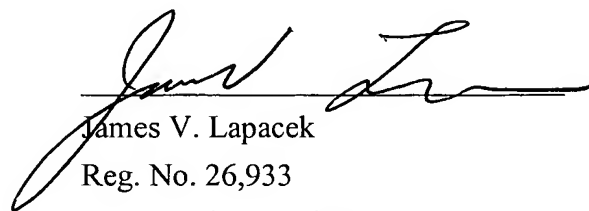
For example, applicants' invention as recited in claim 1, as amended, is directed to a fuse tube having a multiple layered laminate construction including an inner arc-quenching surface layer comprised of a filament-wound, fiber-reinforced matrix comprising a thermosetting resin and melamine, and also including at least one outer layer of filament-wound, glass fiber reinforced thermosetting resin, the outer layer being bonded to the inner arc-quenching surface layer whereby no dielectric or mechanical interface is present between the inner and outer layers, the inner arc-quenching surface layer comprising at least 10% by weight melamine, at least 10% by weight of filamentous fiber material and at least 40% by weight of thermosetting resin.

While the Brown reference is directed to a wound fuse tube, it teaches an inorganic filler such as aluminum trihydrate that generates and/or releases molecular water upon exposure to arcing conditions (column 6, line 11 through column 7, line 44). Further, the Tobin reference is directed solely to molded fuse tubes having a single material composition of thermosetting material and arc-extinguishing material and a mechanical/physical interface or boundary layer of porous material (e.g. cylinder of woven fiberglass) so as to define inner and outer portions in a molded fuse tube. While both references do both deal with fuse tubes, there is no suggestion to use the melamine arc-extinguishing material from the molded fuse tube of the Tobin reference in place of the inorganic filler of the wound fuse tube in the Brown reference. On the contrary, it would not be suggested to those skilled in the art to try this combination for two reasons, 1. the difference in fabrication of wound versus molded, and 2. the divergent properties of the arc-extinguishing materials between the two references. For example, Patent No. 5,015,514 was granted to Rinehart on the basis that an inorganic filler such as aluminum trihydrate was novel and unobvious for the arc-extinguishing material in a fuse tube over the prior art including melamine. Thus, the fact that melamine is not interchangeable with aluminum trihydrate is contrary to the Examiner's statement "It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the melamine of Tobin as a filler in the fuse tubes of Brown **in order to improve the arc-extinguishing properties of the resultant fuse tubes**" (emphasis added).

Accordingly, claims 1-3 and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner

are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,



James V. Lapacek
Reg. No. 26,933
Attorney for Applicants

S&C Electric Company
6601 N. Ridge Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60626
Telephone: (773) 338-1000 x2497
Facsimile: (773) 381-4936

June 1, 2004